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August 10, 1994

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DECL: OADR

TO: G - Mr. Wirth  
FROM: AF - George E. Moose  
SUBJECT: Assistance to Radio Rwanda

We have consulted with Ambassador Rawson to obtain his views on the appropriateness of U.S. government assistance to Rwandan national radio, now controlled by the new RPF-led government. Ambassador Rawson noted that the new government raised this issue with Secretary Perry and the CJCS during their recent visits and that both indicated in a general fashion that we would help in some way. He feels that we must make good on this general commitment.

Ambassador Rawson noted that the new government has been saying the right things so far. However, he still has some concerns about supporting an effort by the new government to entice refugees back if it turns out that their security is at risk after they return. To balance these concerns against our desire to meet our commitment and assist with refugee return, Ambassador Rawson suggested that we assist the radio in some practical but discrete fashion, such as providing a generator or fuel supply on a one-time basis. He would like to avoid longer term or more direct assistance, such as offering personnel to help run the station, which could identify us too closely with possible propaganda messages that could turn out to paint a rosier picture than is justified.

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We believe Ambassador Rawson's approach is a sensible one and that we should support it in our interagency discussions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:

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